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IGBA Joins ICH and Welcomes the Positive Vote of the General Assembly

Geneva, Switzerland (June 15, 2016) The International Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (IGBA) very much welcomes today's decision of the ICH General Assembly to accept the IGBA as an Assembly Member of the International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH).

"To join the ICH as an Assembly Member is a historical moment for our industry. We strongly believe that, having contributed to the ICH work as an interested party during the last 20 years, we can now open a new chapter of engaging fully in the ICH activities of developing the international standards applied to the pharmaceutical industry, including generic and biosimilar manufacturers. The IGBA is very much looking forward to playing a constructive role in the ICH, engaging actively in the ICH processes through the representation of our members across the five continents", commented the Chair of the IGBA, Vivian Frittelli.

The positive decision of the ICH to accept IGBA as an Assembly Member reflects the evolution of the generic and biosimilar pharmaceutical industries. These industries are now global industries, with generic medicines accounting for the overwhelming majority of the prescriptions filled globally, while the development and approval of biosimilars and other complex-to-manufacture medicines continue to expand.

IGBA is well positioned to continue contributing to the development of the ICH, in collaboration with all members. The IGBA looks forward to participating in the ICH Assembly and, in accordance with the new structure, to playing a constructive role in the Management Committee in the future.

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About IGBA

The International Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (IGBA), legally incorporated in Geneva, Switzerland, was founded as the IGPA (International Generic Pharmaceutical Alliance) in March 1997 to strengthen cooperation between associations representing manufacturers of generic medicines. Its membership includes Medicines for Europe (formerly the EGA) (Europe), the CGPA (Canada), the GPhA (USA), the JAPM (Jordan), the NAPM (South Africa), the TGPA (Taiwan) and the JGA (Japan) while the associations from Australia (GBMA), Brazil (ProGenericos), Mexico (AMEGI) and Malaysia (MOPI) are Associate Members. The IGBA is at the forefront of stimulating competitiveness and innovation in the pharmaceutical sector by providing high quality pro-competitive medicines to millions of patients around the world. Through its constituent member associations, the IGBA maintains constant dialogue with government authorities (including the European Commission for Europe) as well as with international institutions such as WTO, WIPO and WHO. More information: www.igbamedicines.com